

of Brabant appealed to the "Joyeuse Entree," the Magna Charta of the province, which the proclamation infringed. Still more vehement was the outcry of the section of the nobility led by Count Louis of Nassau, William's brother, Count Brederode, and Saint Aldegonde, who were in touch with the Calvinist preachers. Count Louis and Saint Aldegonde were men of high character. Brederode was a loose liver, and the hardest drinker of his day—the type of too many of his fellow-nobles. But, whether saints or sinners, these men were fierce foes of the bloody tyranny of the papal inquisitors, and denounced it in scathing terms as a barbarous travesty of all laws, human and divine. Under the manipulation of Orange, they calmed down sufficiently to express their sentiments in less violent language in a " Request" to the duchess to petition the king to revoke the edicts and stop the Inquisition meanwhile. With this request, and with Brederode for spokesman, they appeared at the palace at Brussels on the 5th April 1566. The request was resolute, but it was respectful, and the duchess, listening to the advice of Orange, promised to send the desired petition to the king, and to do her best to moderate the Inquisition pending the royal answer. With this reply " the Beggars," as Berlaymont contemptuously called Brederode's followers, ultimately professed satisfaction, and retired to celebrate their victory in a mighty carouse. The wine flowed freely under Brederode's auspices, as the confederates discussed the question of giving an appropriate name to their association. " They call us beggars," cried Brederode; " let us accept the name," and, putting on the leathern wallet of the professional beggar of the day, he raised his flowing bowl with the cry, " Long live the Beggars ! " " Long live the Beggars !" echoed back from three hundred throats, and therewith was launched the battle-cry of a revolution and a free nation.

The battle was about to begin, but it was not these reckless, roistering young bloods that were to deal the first blow. The more forcible protest of the people was not long in coming. Its threatening attitude had already forced the Inquisition to resort to secret executions—to substitute nocturnal drownings in tubs for public burnings—and it now showed its defiance of the papal Inquisition by crowding in thousands to hear the